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SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Until the first issue of *The Breeze* appeared on the campus, December 2, the chronicler of passing events was this department of THE VIRGINIA TEACHER. But now there are reporters with snappy eyes and keen, with alert steps, and each with a "nose for news." And they publish twice to the TEACHER's once. So what is news in the bi-weekly Breeze has lost some of its punch when the more sedate and leisurely VIRGINIA TEACHER steps out of Dr. Converse's office.

Perhaps this department should withdraw from the field of "straight news." Names, dates, events—these are the essence of news; but events often call for comment and interpretation, and to this more limited field "Student Activities" will hereafter aim to devote itself.

In addition to the large number of readers of THE VIRGINIA TEACHER whose interest is in the leading articles and book reviews, there are perhaps some hundreds who, having studied at Harrisonburg, feel a special interest in the "goings-on" here.

For those readers, then, who look to "School Activities" and its next-door neighbor, "News and Notes of the Alumnae," for comment on the school's customs and traditions, on its daughters and their work in the field, assurance is hereby given:

The Breeze may come, The Breeze may blow,

The Breeze may be quite clever;

But we (S. A. and N. N. A.)—

We chatter on forever.

Lest the foregoing should leave the impression that "School Activities" has been a one-man, not to say one-horse, affair, it had best be specifically stated that the contents of this department have been contributed by numerous members of the Harrisonburg faculty and by students no less numerous.

At the risk of erring by telling names and tales both, there might be mentioned especially the following contributors: Miss Cleveland, Dr. Wayland, Miss Anthony, Dr. Gifford, Miss Stephens, Louise Houston, Annie Gilliam, Grace Heyl, and various members of Miss Cleveland's "English 100c," besides "others too numerous to mention."

The presence of Mr. C. B. Root in Harrisonburg for six weeks as a representative of Community Service, Inc., "C'mon, let's has brought much pleasure to Play!" students and faculty alike. To begin with, Mr. Root was invited to the dinner at which the Harrisonburg Kiwanis Club entertained all teachers of the city schools and of the State Normal School, and at the conclusion of the dinner "put on" some games which were most diverting.

If any Kiwanian regarded his guests as stern and staid school teachers when the dinner began, he was surely enlightened by the time the games had proceeded to the stage where everyone tried to "catch a fox and put him in a box."

In the play institute during the last two weeks of November Mr. Root had among his most regular attendants both students and teachers of the Normal School. The Friday night after Thanksgiving great fun was had at the community play festival held in Harrison Hall.

And during American Education Week Mr. Root again was on hand, this time to speak briefly at assembly December 8.

Everyone is rooting for Root, and back of the idea he stands for: a community organization in Harrisonburg that will provide directed play for its citizens' leisure hours.

The Educational Conference at Richmond was a most stimulating one. Professor W. H. Kilpatrick, of Teachers College, Columbia University, Richmond Meeting was the most prominent speaker, and made a profound impression on his audiences, both at the general sessions and in the section meetings which he addressed. On all sides it was noted that altho Professor Kilpatrick had been speaking continually of the ideas and principles with which his name is identified in education, not once had the phrase "project method" fallen from his lips.

Dean W. J. Gifford was elected vice-president of the State Teachers Association, representing District G, which comprises most of the Valley counties. Miss Mary Louise Seeger was elected chairman of the Primary-Kindergarten section for 1923.

Harrisonburgers felt a special interest in the program of the Home Economics section,

of which Mrs. P. P. Moody was chairman. Miss Greenawalt read a paper on clothing; Miss Penelope Morgan (B. S. '22), now teaching at Averett College, Danville, spoke on ways and means of teaching health, and Mary Lees Hardy, now in her fourth year of training at Harrisonburg, read a paper on educational tests and measurements in the field of home economics.

Miss Katherine M. Anthony, as chairman of the Grammar Grade section, presided over a joint meeting with the Primary-Kindergarten section, at which Professor Kilpatrick spoke on "Broader Principles of Method," and over a later section meeting when a fruitful discussion of this address was carried on.

While the Richmond meeting was on, there gathered in Chattanooga, Tennessee, about 200 teachers of English to attend the annual November meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English. Previously, each meeting had been held in one of three cities, Chicago, New York, and Boston, and the attendance of Southerners had never been large. The policy of meeting outside of these three cities seemed to meet with a general welcome, for there were presented invitations for the next meeting from St. Louis, Memphis, Detroit, and Atlanta. Detroit was chosen.

Mr. C. T. Logan attended the meeting and spoke before the high school section on the various means of creating and enlarging a "reading public" for high school writers. Mr. James M. Grainger, of the Farmville State Normal School, was to have read a paper before the elementary section on "Composition as a Means of Socialization," but was unable to be present.

The Home-Coming Room was thrown open Thanksgiving morning, when the first floor of the Alumnae Building was treated to a sort of house-warming. The room is beautifully furnished, and the great fireplace is rightly the cynosure of all eyes, for it imparts to the whole room an expansive and cordial air.

On the west side, four of the six rooms have been occupied. The Social Director,

Miss Lancaster, has her new office here; the newly appointed Alumnae Secretary, Miss Anne Gilliam, has an office; there is a room for the Student Government Association; and at the southwest corner is the editorial home of the new student newspaper, *The Breeze*.

Recent official visitors on the campus have included Mrs. Edna Fox, and Mr. L. L. Williams, both representatives of the State Board of Health; Mr. M. L. Combs, newly appointed assistant supervisor of secondary schools in Virginia; Mr. T. S. Settle, a representative of Community Service, Inc.

Because many of the photographs for the 1923 annual, "The Schoolma'am," were taken this fall, student organizations were completed early in the session—much earlier than usual. Among the various clubs to choose officers were the long-established name clubs. Some of these are quite active organizations.

Mary Club—Mary Warren, Norfolk, president; Mary Pratt, Waynesboro, vice-president; Mary Baily, Waynesboro, secretary; Mary S. Hutcheson, Brownsburg, business manager.

Frances Club—Frances Corraleigh Jones, Gordonsville, president; Barbara Frances Sellers, Elkton, secretary and treasurer; Frances Conway Henderson, Milford, business manager.

Virginia Club—Virginia Borst, Petersburg, president; Elizabeth V. Buchanan, Hampton, vice-president; Claire V. Lay, Coeburn, secretary and treasurer; Virginia Swatts, Churchville, chairman of social committee.

Louise Club—Louise Houston, Fairfield, president; Louise Allen, Goshen, secretary and treasurer; Louise O'Callahan, Athens, Georgia, chairman of social committee.

Elizabeth Club—Elizabeth Keen Richardson, Danville, president; Elizabeth Joyner, Smithfield, vice-president; Elizabeth Sparrow, Wilmington, N. C., secretary; Elizabeth Robinson, Roanoke, treasurer; Elizabeth Johnson, Lynchburg, business manager.